

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The sole independent claim 126 has been amended to recite the function of the logic unit in feature (d)(2), further to define the signaling and monitoring element in feature (e), and to add a defined second signaling and monitoring element.

The input device has been eliminated from claim 126 and is presented in new claim 149. It has been defined so as to distinguish from input device 28 (a pump for feeding a pressure fluid) of EP0240965. Applicant's claimed input device enables an operator to enter various parameters manually at the site of the displacement unit to suit the individual displacement situation, in the so-called initiating mode, that is before the displacement unit has been switched to automatic mode. As has been explained in the last-filed amendment in the passage beginning on page 14, fourth line from below, to page 17, line 7, these parameters may relate to different extraction lengths of a piston rod for different types of assembly parts or insertion depths for different types of assembly parts, for example, as well as to a threshold value for a displacement parameter, such a vibration, force, cycle time, etc. As a result, it is now possible, for the first time, to control the displacement unit from the central control unit as well as actually on site. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

that this claim, and claims 144 and 145 dependent thereon, distinguish clearly over the reference, and allowance of these claims is accordingly respectfully solicited.

As to claim 126, applicant carefully analyzed the reference and the differences between it and the claimed subject matter in the amendment filed June 10, 2003 (pages 10-20), and to avoid redundancy, these comments are incorporated herein by reference. While the Examiner has stated the "Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 126 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection," the grounds of rejection are, in fact, identical with the first ones and are **not new**. In other words, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not explained why applicant's detailed explanation is not moot and why it has not overcome the rejection. Accordingly, the Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn again to these comments.

Nevertheless, claim 126 has been amended in an effort to define the invention even more distinctly. Thus, as to amended feature (e), if a person of ordinary skill in the art were given the task of building a displacement unit in which the moved component could be displaced at high travel speeds while permitting a high positioning accuracy, the reference would not suggest the use of sensors as a means if detecting changing

operating conditions during operation of the displacement unit.

As the added feature (f), it enables any disruptive influences adversely affecting the operation of the displacement unit, on the one hand, and the positioning accuracy of the displaced component, on the other hand, to be detected by a sensor and to be evaluated accordingly. This means that mechanical stress on the displacement unit caused by vibrations, for example, can be detected in plenty of time and signaled so that continued operation under these damaging conditions may be avoided by switching the displacement unit off immediately. This enables the service life of such displacement units to be extended, damage to machinery incorporating such units to be prevented, and the production accuracy of a multi-part displacement unit to be improved.

In view of applicant's previous extended comments and the above further explanations, it is respectfully submitted that claim 126 is clearly patentable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claim 126, and claims 89-91, 93, 111, 113, 116, 117, 121-123, 125, 127-129-133, 135, 136, and 138-149 dependent thereon, are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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